**Setting up of market Intelligence Communication network**

1527. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a market intelligence and communication network during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof with circumstances and objectives attached to this move;

(c) whether this move will help control undue fluctuation in prices in rural markets;

(d) whether this move will also help the farmers get better prices for their produce;

(e) whether this move will cost something to Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (f) A scheme for setting up of market intelligence and communication network is under consideration of the Government. The details of the scheme are being worked-out.

**New schemes for transformation of rural areas**

1528. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the new initiatives for transformation of Rural areas in the country particularly in the State of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details of allocation made by Government in respect of the Schemes launched or to be launched during the Eighth/Ninth Five Year Plans; and

(c) what effective measures are being taken by Government to improve socio-economic conditions of people in rural areas which are below the poverty line in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) to (c) No new schemes have taken up. However a number of schemes/programmes launched by Central Govt. for Rural Development are being implemented in the country including Punjab state for improving the living standard of the rural people. These include special employment programmes like IRDP, JRY and EAS, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP). The allocations made to Punjab during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (8th Plan) for major rural development programme are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below). The programmes for 9th plan have not yet been finalised.

**Statement**

*Allocation of funds to the State of Punjab*

(Rs. in lakhs)

| Sl. No. | Name of the major schemes | Allocation of funds | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1992-93 | 1993-94 | 1994-95 |
| 1. | I.R.D.P. | 406.00 | 528.00 | 523.00 |
| 2. | DWCRA | 21.21 | 47.98 | 53.53 |
| 3. | JRY | 1982.54 | 1634.30 | 1699.28 |
| 4. | ARWSP | 424.00 | 688.00 | 775.00 |
| 5. | CRSP | 17.00 | 26.00 | 52.00 |